

THE CHARITON COURIER

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3 DEAD, 1 HURT AS LOCOMOTIVE BOILER BURSTS

Carrollton, Mo., Dec. 16.—Three are dead and one seriously injured and may die as the result of an explosion of the boiler of Santa Fe locomotive No. 3185, pulling a freight train from Marceline to Kansas City, one mile from Standish, here at noon today.

The dead: **GEORGE HUNT**, 36 years old, engineer, Marceline, Mo.; killed instantly. **H. L. BRAY**, 35 years old, fireman, Marceline, Mo.; killed instantly.

M. S. DUREE, 30 years old, head brakeman, Marceline, Mo.; died few hours later from burns.

The injured: **ELBERT M'KIERNAN**, traveling engineer, Marceline, Mo.; riding in the cab of the locomotive, probably will die.

H. N. Arms, conductor of the train, riding in the caboose, was thrown from his seat by the explosion, but was not hurt.

Died at His Post

Hunt's body was found in the cab of the locomotive 150 feet from the tracks, erect in the seat. The cab was intact, but the remainder of the locomotive was blown to pieces.

Those who rushed to the scene of the explosion said pieces of the drivers were found 500 feet from the scene of the explosion.

The body of Fireman Gray was removed from the wreckage within a few feet of the rails. Three cars of the train were blown from the tracks and reduced to kindling wood. The tender was a mass of crushed and broken steel.

Trains east out of Kansas City were not delayed, but westbound trains were delayed until another locomotive could be secured to pull the freight train back to Standish.

The train was an extra, carrying merchandise, and left Marceline about 9:30 o'clock in the morning, bound for Kansas City. It was traveling at a high rate of speed when the explosion occurred. The report was heard for several miles.

Engineer's Death Instantaneous—Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Thomas, Carrollton, were among the first to reach scene of the wreck.

"Gray was dead when removed from the mass of splintered wood and steel," Mrs. Thomas said.

Physicians who were rushed to the scene said that the death of the engineer was instantaneous. The head brakeman, Dupree, and the traveling engineer, McKiernan, were brought to a hospital here.

The cause of the explosion has not been determined. Officials of the Santa Fe in Marceline refused to give out a statement. It was said that

HIGH SCHOOL LYCEUM BILL OF HIGH CLASS

The Maitland entertainers, the first number of the lyceum course being put on by the Keytesville public schools, was presented to a small but enthusiastic crowd at the court house auditorium last Saturday night. The entertainers were at their best and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the artists' efforts to please.

The citizens of the town should be proud of the efforts of the school to put over a lyceum course, and the backers should be supported in the most liberal manner possible.

The next number comes in February and it is reported that the best numbers are still to come.

The Courier wishes to congratulate the school on its success in getting away with a good start. It is predicted that the next number will be better than the Maitland entertainers. If this is so there should be only standing room in the court house auditorium.

SINCLAIR OIL TRUCK BURNED ON ROAD NORTH OF TOWN

The large Sinclair oil truck containing 350 gallons of gasoline, caught on fire, on the road north of town, near the Bosworth farm, last Friday morning about 9 o'clock.

Ed Leven, the driver, was on his way to Bynumville with a load of gas. The tank exploded throwing him clear of the car. The front end of the truck was immediately enveloped in flames and fearing that the big tank would explode, Mr. Leven sought safety in distance and watched the car burn. The big tank, owing to a safety valve did not explode, but the 300 gallons of gas it contained were burned.

A mechanic sent here from the company's headquarters said the accident was due to a short circuit in the lighting system the wires of which went underneath the engine supply tank and set fire to it from underneath.

It was a narrow escape for Mr. Leven. He sustained a slightly sprained ankle and numerous bruises on his body when thrown from the car.—Salisbury Press.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Samide of Kansas City will arrive Saturday and will remain a week with Mrs. Samide's parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Gordon.

there were two explosions, but that the second explosion did not have the terrific force of the first one.

The dead were residents of Marceline and all leave families.

The bodies of the dead trainmen were sent tonight to their homes in Marceline.

Is There a Santa Claus?

From the Sun, New York, Sept. 21, 1897.

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of the Sun:

"Dear Editor: I am 8 years old.

"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun, it's so.'

"Please tell me the truth: is there a Santa Claus?"

"VIRGINIA O'HANLON,
"115 West Ninety-Fifth Street."

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the scepticism of a sceptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas, how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

The Inter-State Basketball season at the Chillicothe Business College ended last week with a spectacular game between the Northeast Missouri clubs, the former winning the championship. The school games in

the Missouri State Conference begin after the holidays.

Dr. J. B. Stokes will go to Macon, Mo., Saturday for a few days visit with relatives.

SPENDING HONEYMOON IN THE COUNTY JAIL

Hubert Richardson and Mrs. Beulah Richardson, his two-day old bride are spending their honeymoon at Huntsville, in the Hotel Milam, not because they prefer lounging in conjugal love behind iron bars to that of the easy rockers and couches of the Radium Hotel, or any other fine hostelry, but because the law has so decreed. But it is said they are enjoying life and making the best of their honeymoon under the confining circumstances, and hoping for better and happier days in the near future.

Mrs. Richardson was a Mrs. Beulah Scott up to Tuesday last, and resided for a while in the northern part of this county. Her maiden name was West, and she married Scott about two years ago, and two children were born to them; one is dead and the other, a little girl of seven months is living. Mrs. Richardson is just past eighteen years old. She and her first husband had separated and she had filed suit for divorce in the Huntsville court. Her case was tried before Judge Walker Monday, but the Judge took the matter under advisement and did not order a decree. She came to Huntsville on Sunday with Hubert Richardson, of Prairie Hill, Mo. A young bachelor of 35 years, and they engaged rooms at the home of Mrs. William Asbell, claiming to be man and wife.

Tuesday, following her trial for a divorce, Mrs. Scott and her lover, Mr. Richardson, procured licenses from County Recorder Callie Hallibuton, and were united in marriage by Judge M. A. Finnell, and Wednesday following the newlyweds left for Chariton County. When the officers of the law learned of their action, a state warrant was sworn out for their arrest, charging them with unlawful cohabitation and bigamy.

Thursday morning Deputy Sheriff Steve Jones, armed with the warrants, started in pursuit, and overtook them at Salisbury and placed them under arrest. Failing to give bond the newly married couple was placed in jail to await the action of court.

It is said that Mrs. Richardson's former husband, E. Scott and his father are confined in the Keytesville jail charged with a felony.

Mr. and Mrs. Richardson claim that they understood the court granted her a divorce, and, under that impression, married.—Moberly Democrat.

WEST VIRGINIA WOODS

FULL OF DEER

A news item in the daily press says the woods about Morgantown, W. V., are full of deer. Well, Virginia has nothing on this neck of the wood, in fact we have it on Virginia. We don't have to go out in the woods to find our dears.

SURPRISED THEIR FRIENDS

Last Saturday night at 8:30 at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. N. Elliott of Keytesville, Miss Margaret Elliott and Ashton Edwards were married by the Rev. O. L. Hunt. The affair was a complete surprise to the many friends of the contracting parties, and was a quiet affair, only the immediate relatives of the contracting parties being in attendance.

Immediately after the wedding the happy family left for St. Louis for their honeymoon.

Miss Elliott is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott. She received her education in the Keytesville high school and since graduation she has remained at home. Mr. Edwards came here some few years ago with his parents and has been associated with his parents in farming operations. He is a young man of sterling character, well liked and popular with all his acquaintances.

The wedding was a complete surprise to their many friends and they are waiting for them to return in order to give them the proper kind of a greeting.

They will reside on the Pinegar farm west of town with the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Y. N. Edwards.

The Courier joins with their many friends in wishing them a happy and prosperous voyage through life.

MARKETING CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN MOBERLY

Moberly, Mo., Dec. 18.—Arrangements have been made by the Chamber of Commerce of this city with the College of Agriculture at the University of Missouri for a marketing conference with farmers in this city February 1 and 2.

John Sheay, extension specialist in the marketing department of the College of Agriculture, completed the arrangements here at a conference with officials of the Chamber of Commerce. The conference is expected to be largely attended by farmers of the Moberly trade territory.

IF HE HAD GOT MARRIED HE WOULDN'T HAVE BOASTED

The Kaiser still keeps on denying he started the war, declaring his sacrifice in leaving Germany has been in vain, and then he adds, "I recognize no mortal judge." Well, anyway he's been judged, caused and then some. Evidently, however, he leads a charmed life in that the allies do not see fit to try him and impose the death sentence to which he is justly entitled.

Miss Mabel Hutcheson will go to her home at Kirksville for the holidays.

Is Your Name There?



WARM FRIENDS



The Courier wishes all of its friends and business associates a Merry Christmas. And along with these festivities all will enjoy may there be no accidents from Christmas Tree Fires. With the little ones and their unbounded enthusiasm care must be taken